(ख) यदि हां, तो यह लक्ष्य क्या था;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि चालू वर्ष के प्रथम नौ माहों में टेलीफोन कनेक्शन देने की गति अति धीमी रही है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो दिसम्बर, 1994 के अन्त तक कुल कितने टेलीफोन कनेक्शन स्वीकृत किये गये ;

(ङ) स्वीकृत किये गये इन कनेक्शनों में से उन कनेक्शनों की संख्या कितनी है जो फरवरी, 1995 के प्रथम सप्ताह के अन्त तक वास्तव में चालू किये जा सकें हैं ;

(च) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने भविष्य में उपभोक्ताओं की मांग पर तुरन्त टेलीफोन कनेक्शन देने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया है ; और

(छ) यदि हां, तो यह क्षमता कब तक प्राप्त होने की संभावना है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) 1994-95 के दौरान 14.26 लाख टेलीफोन कनेक्शन प्रदान करने का लक्ष्य है ।

(ग) और (घ) जी, नही । दिसम्बर, 1994 तक 7.7 लाख टेलीफोन कनेक्शन मंजूर किये गये ।

(ङ) ओ.बी. जारी करने के बाद टेलीफोन प्रदान करने के लिये मार्ग निर्देश इस प्रकार है:—

बहुएक्सचेंज प्रणालियों में–	30 दिन
एकल एक्सचेंज प्रणाली में–	15 दिन

तथापि, कुछ मामलों में टेलीफोन प्रदान करने में तकनीकी अव्यवहारिता के कारण विलंब हो सकता है ।

(च) और (छ) राष्ट्रीय दूरसंचार नीति में देश भर में 1997 तक मांग पर टेलीफोन प्रदान करने की परिकल्पना की गई है ।

Disc-read Memory Telephone Directories

1247. SHRI HIPHEI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications proposes to introduce Compact Disc-read Memory telephone directories in certain cities of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with the estimated cost of such facility;

(c) whether subscribers will be benefited with this facility;

(d) if so, the details thereof, with the procedure to avail of this facility;

(e) whether Government propose to extent this facility in North Eastern States, espacially in Mizoram, and

(f) is so, the details thereof and if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Withdrawal of MNCs from investment in the telecom sector

1248. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several multinational companies which had planned to make major investment in Indian telecom sector are now withdrawing due to stringent conditions imposed in tender;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a condition has been imposed on the overseas bidder not to have more than one local partner, and if so, the rationale of this policy decision; and

(c) if so, whether Government feel that such a condition will severly restrict the participation by overseas bidders, thereby eliminating the environment of competition making the expansion of telecommunications suffer seriously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Government does not have such information.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. This has been done to prevent monopoly tendency. This will not curtail foreign investment.

Demand to upgrade the skills of the workers

1249. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand from the labour unions to make necessary action to upgrade the skill of workers of the Postal and Telecommunication departments or any one of them, so that they can compete with private sector in a competitive manner; and

(b) if so what is the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir. The Government has received the demands from three Staff Federations of Department of Telecom on training and retraining of staff to upgrade the skill/education and to improve work culture. No formal demand has been received in the Dpartment of Posts.

(b) The Department of Telecom. has drawn up and is implementing elaborate training plans to upgrade the skill of group 'C' and 'D' staff so as to enable them to handle new technology equipment. The Department of Posts has also prepared a comprehensive plan for training for skill upgradation and has created necessary infra-structure.

Disconnecting the telephones for non-payment of Bills

1250. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone numbers which were disconnected for non-payment of bills during the months of January, February and March till date, on the level of 60 in Delhi;

(b) whether the subscribers were informed before disconnecting the numbers

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) what action has been taken against erring officers/officials who harassed the subscribers by disconnecting their phones on the presumption of non-payment; and

(e) the number of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The number of telephones dis-connected for non-payment of bills of 60 level in Delhi were as follows:—

Jtnuary, 95	14 numbers
February, 95	239 numbers
March, 95 (till 16.03.95)	141 numbers

(b) Yes, Sir. In addition to registered notices, telephonic reminders were also given to the subscribers except in those cases where there was no response despite repeated attempts.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) In view of (b) above, there was no harassment to the subscribers. In alj such cases the payment information was not received from the authorised branches of banks and the subscribers also did not inform about having made the payment either on